

South Dakota National Guard
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Suriname Minister of Defense and US Ambassador Visit S.D.
under the National Guard State partnership Program**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The Suriname Minister of Defense Ivan Fernald and US Ambassador to Suriname Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes will be visiting S.D. from February 23-27, under the auspices of the S.D. National Guard State Partnership Program.

The program was formalized in August of 2006 and has executed over 30 exchanges with over 750 subject matter experts both here and in Suriname. The focus of the program has been building relationships within the economic, tourism, education, military, emergency response and medical sectors of the state and country.

While in the state, the delegation will be meeting with various military, community, civic and private leaders and organizations to become better acquainted with South Dakota and future opportunities for engagement.

Media representatives are invited and encouraged to contact the SDNG Public Affairs Office to schedule interviews with participants as they travel throughout the state. The group will be in Rapid City on Monday and Tuesday, Sioux Falls on Wednesday, and Pierre on Thursday and Friday.

Lt. Col. Settle and 1st Lt. Nachtigall (KNIGHT'-en-gale) will be traveling with the group and can arrange individual interviews as requested.

All media requests are to go through the SDNG Public Affairs Office.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Brendan Murphy at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail brendan.murphy1@us.army.mil.

NOTE: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror. Currently, more than 70 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,300 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.